

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 NSC-05

SCCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 H-02 /060 W

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O 280940Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8360

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1748

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMCUTS

REF: A) DAR ES SALAAM 1745; B) STATE 123107

C) STATE 123330; D) STATE 123331; E) BUJUMBURA 345;

AND F) KINSHASA 4378

1. THIS TELEGRAM IS GOING TO BE NECESSARILY LONG, BUT I WANT PUT INTO ONE MESSAGE ITEMS DISCUSSED UNDER REFTELS SO THAT WE MIGHT BETTER FOCUS ON WHERE WE ARE AT THE MOMENT.

2. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE CLIMATE UNDER WHICH WE MUST NOW FUNCTION IN DAR IS CLEARLY SET IN REF A WHICH CONTAINS TODAY'S (MAY 28) DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL AND WHICH SAYS: QTE BUT WE (TANGOV) CATEGORICALLY REJECT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR (STUDENTS) RELEASE OR WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THEM UNQTE. SO AS TO ADD ANOTHER NAIL, THE STATEMENT CONINUED QTE WE WOULD FURTHER LIKE ALL CONCERNED TO ACCEPT THIS UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT AS OUR FIRM POSITION UNQTE.

3. SO WE CAN'T REASONABLY EXPECT ANY ASSISTANCE OR
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INITIATIVES FROM TANGOV. AT BEST WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT

THEY WILL NOT ATTEMPT BLOCK ANY INITIATIVES WE MUST TAKE.

4. TOWARD THAT END I AM PLEASED IN REF B DEPT APPROVES, CONCEPTUALLY ANYWAY, THE IDEA OF AN INTERMEDIARY WHO CAN ATTEMPT INITIATE DIALOGUE WITH PRP. SINCE DEPT DOES NOT WISH INVOLVE ANY USG PERSON, I PROPOSE, AND WITH HIS CONCURRENCE, THAT WE USE PETER STEINER WHO ARRIVED IN DAR ON MONDAY (MAY 26) AS THE INFORMAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FAMILIES OF THE REMAINING HOSTAGES, THE SMUTS FAMILY AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY. FYI: STEINER IS A VISITING PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IN ECONOMICS. HIS PERMANENT TEACHING ASSIGNMENT IS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. HE IS AN OBERLIN COLLEGE GRADUATE OF '43, DID TWO YEARS AS A JUNIOR OFFICER IN THE NAVY AFTERWARD, HAS A PHD IN ECONOMICS FROM HARVARD, AND HAS TAUGHT AT BERKELEY AND MADISON BEFORE GOING TO ANN ARBOR. I AM IMPRESSED THAT HE IS A SOUND, RESOURCEFUL PERSON WHO CAN ENTER INTO THESE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EVERY LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS. END FYI.

5. THE ADDITIONAL VALUE OF HAVING STEINER TAKE THIS ON IS THAT HE IS PRESENTLY IN PLACE HERE IN DAR. WE COULD GET HIM INTO KIGOMA BY CHARTER QUICKLY, HAVE HIM CIRCULATE IN THE KIGOMA AREA WITH MACFARLANE AND MISSIONARIES WHO COULD PASS THE WORD TO THE OTHER SIDE THAT AN INTERMEDIARY WAS ENROUTE FOR TALKS AT NYANZA LAC (REF E). WE COULD ALSO HOPEFULLY DRAW ON RESOURCES IN BUJUMBURA AND KINSHASA IN PASSING THE WORD ABOUT STEINER'S AVAILABILITY, AND COULD EVEN DO THIS VIA BROADCAST.

6. ON REF C WE ARE UNCOURAGED HEAR ABOUT THE HORR-KANZA EXCHANGE, AND I UNDERSCORE KANZA'S STATEMENT QTE BEST HOPE OF RESCUING HOSTAGES WOULD LIE WITH STRIKING QUICK RPT QUICK DEAL ON PRP PRISONERS UNQTE.

7. IN REF D, PARA 3, IN WHICH DEPT ASKS WHETHER NYERERE WOULD GO ALONG WITH A PRISONER RELEASE, I AM NOT SANGUINE THAT WE CAN GET SUCH A COMMITMENT IN ADVANCE, THOUGH I THINK IT MAY BE ULTIMATELY POSSIBLE. I THINK THE FIRST THING WE MUST DO IS ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH PRP, FOCUS ON THE PUBLICITY
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ANGLE AND REMIND PRP THAT IT MUST BE AWARE OF HOW DIFFICULT TANGOV AND GOZ ARE ON THIS POINT. OUR INTERMEDIARY COULD STRESS THAT ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE THAT IF THE STUDENTS ARE RELEASED THERE MIGHT BE A COMARABLE GESTURE BY TANGOV AND GOZ. I DON'T BELIEVE EMBASSY DAR OR KINSHASA SHOULD RAISE THIS QUESTION OF PRISONER RELEASE UNTIL STEINER OR WHOEVER THE INTERMEDIARY IS CAN INDICATE THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE HOSTAGES' RELEASE.

8. FINALLY, INsofar AS REF F, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THE TIME THAT WOULD HAVE TO ELAPSE IN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF A PRP DETAINEE NOR DO I THINK THAT THE OTHER SUGGESTIONS IN PARA TWO ARE VIABLE BECAUSE OF TIME CONSTRAINTS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT APPROVAL TO USE PETER STEINER AS A NON-USG INTERMEDIARY TO UNDERTAKE INITIATIVES TO OPEN DIALOGUE WITH PRP. STEINER IS PREPARED TO TRAVEL IMMEDIATELY, AND EMBASSY BELIEVES TIME OF ABSOLUTE ESSENCE AT THIS STAGE.

10. FOR BRUSSELS: ADVISE IF TRAFFIC THIS SUBJECT IMPOSES PROBLEMS DURING MINIMIZE.
CARTER

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